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By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION,

For putting in Execution the Laws made againſt Unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and Riotous Aſſemblies, and for the more ſpeedy and effectual Puniſhing Rioters.

GEORGE R.

WHereas it has been repreſented, That great Numbers of Woollcombers and Weavers in ſeveral of the Towns and Pariſhes in this Kingdom, concerned in the Woollen Manufactures, have lately formed themſelves into ſeveral Clubs and Societies, without any lawful Authority for that purpoſe, and have preſumed, contrary to Law, to act as one or more Corporation or Corporations, and to chuſe thereof Maſters, Stewards, Superviſors, Aſſiſtants, and other Officers, and have uſed a Common Seal, and do otherwiſe preſume unlawfully to act as Bodies Corporate, and have preſumed to make By-Laws or Orders (all which are illegal and void) by which they pretend to determine who has a Right to the Trade, how many Apprentices and Journeymen each Man ſhall keep at one Time, and whom he ſhall take, and at what Prices all ſorts of Goods ſhall be wrought, and in what manner, and of what Materials made, and many other things to the like purpoſe; and have unlawfully conſpired and promiſed to put the ſaid illegal By-Laws or Orders in Execution: And when many of the ſaid Conſpirators, by reaſon of their Maſters not ſubmitting to the ſaid pretended By-Laws or Orders, have been deſtitute of Work and Imployment, in order to lay a Neceſſity on their Imployers to comply with their unreaſonable Demands, the ſaid Clubs have ſupplied them with Money till they could again get Imployment: And the ſaid unlawful Clubs, by reaſon of their holding Correſpondence throughout ſeveral of the Trading Towns in this Kingdom, and of their great Numbers, are become dangerous to the Publick Peace, and thereby, eſpecially in the Counties of Devon and Somerſet, many notorious Riots, Tumults and Diſorders have been committed, ſeveral private Houſes broke open, many of our good Subjects aſſaulted, wounded, and put in Peril of their Lives, great Quantities of Woollen Goods, in part Wrought, have been cut and ſpoiled, Priſons broke open, and the Offenders, for the Crimes aforeſaid, have by Force been ſet at Liberty, and ſome of the ſaid Offenders, to skreen them from Juſtice, have been ſent away with Tickets and Money from their reſpective Clubs, to the great Diſturbance of the publick Peace, and to the Prejudice and Hindrance of the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom: And where ſuch Tumults and Riots have been, the Offenders have preſumed to continue together committing ſuch Riots and Tumults, notwithſtanding Proclamation hath been made, requiring them to diſperſe, purſuant to the Statute in that caſe made and provided. And whereas by an Act paſſed in the ſecond Year of the Reign of the late King Edward the Sixth, Intituled, The Bill of Conſpiracies of Victuallers and Craftſmen, ſeveral ſevere Penalties and Puniſhments are enacted and provided for ſuch as ſhall unlawfully confederate and combine for ſeveral of the Purpoſes herein before mentioned: And by another Statute made in the firſt Year of our Reign, Intituled, An Act for preventing Tumults and riotous Aſſemblies, and for the more ſpeedy and effectual puniſhing the Rioters, it is enacted, that if any Perſons, to the Number of twelve or more, being unlawfully, riotouſly, and tumultuouſly aſſembled together, to the Diſturbance of the publick Peace, at any Time after the laſt Day of July, in the Year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifteen, and being required or commanded by one or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, or by the Sheriff of the County, or his Under-Sheriff, or by the Mayor, Bailiff or Bailiffs, or other Head Officer or Juſtice of the Peace of any City or Town-Corporate, where ſuch Aſſemblies ſhall be, by Proclamation to be made in the King's Name, in the Form therein directed, to diſperſe themſelves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Buſineſs, ſhall, to the Number of twelve or more (notwithſtanding ſuch Proclamation made) unlawfully, riotouſly, and tumultuouſly remain or continue together, by the Space of one Hour after ſuch Command or Requeſt made by Proclamation, that then ſuch continuing together, to the Number of twelve or more, after ſuch Command or Requeſt made by Proclamation, ſhall be adjudged Felony, without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein ſhall be adjudged Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death as in Caſe of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy. And the demoliſhing or pulling down, or beginning to demoliſh or pull down any Building, by Perſons unlawfully, riotouſly and tumultuouſly aſſembled together, to the Diſturbance of the publick Peace, is thereby declared to be Felony, without the Benefit of Clergy, and ſeveral other Directions are therein given for preventing Riots, and the more ſpeedy and effectual puniſhing Rioters. And whereas the Commons in Parliament aſſembled, have, by their Addreſs, humbly beſought us, that we would be graciouſly pleaſed to iſſue our Royal Proclamation for putting in Execution the Laws made againſt unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and riotous Aſſemblies, and for the more ſpeedy and effectual puniſhing Rioters, to which we have graciouſly condeſcended; We have therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of our Privy Council, to iſſue this our Royal Proclamation, and we do hereby ſtrictly prohibit all our loving Subjects from holding Clubs or Aſſemblies for any of the Purpoſes beforementioned, or for any other unlawful Purpoſe whatſoever, and from acting under the ſame in any Manner, under Pain of our higheſt Diſpleaſure, and being proſecuted for the ſame with the utmoſt Rigour of Law. And we do hereby ſtrictly charge and command all our Judges, Juſtices of the Peace, and other Magiſtrates, that they do uſe their utmoſt Endeavours to prevent and ſuppreſs all ſuch unlawful Clubs, Conſpiracies and Combinations, and to put in Execution the ſaid Laws, and all other Laws againſt ſuch unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and riotous Aſſemblies, and for the more ſpeedy and effectual puniſhing Rioters, and that all our loving Subjects be aiding and aſſiſting therein.

Given at Our Court at *James's*, the Ninth Day of February 1717, in the Fourth Year of our Reign.

God ſave the KING.

Copenhagen, Feb. 1. We have Advice, that the General Officers whom the King had ordered to repair to Norway, are arrived at Flaſtrand and are imbarking there for that Kingdom. The laſt Letters from Schwineſund relate, that the Weather was ſtill open there, and that there had not yet been any Action between the Daniſh and Swediſh Armies. We have no Account yet that the Tranſports which ſailed from hence with Meal for Norway, are arrived there: But 'tis known that one of thoſe Tranſports was driven by Streſs of Weather on the Coaſt of the Iſland of Letſoe in the Cattegat, and loſt with all her Lading. The young Princeſs Charlotte who lately fell ill of the Small Pox, is in a fair Way of Recovery. On Sunday laſt M. Lodberg, Dean of the Cathedral of this City, was conſecrated Biſhop of the Iſle of Fuhnen, the Ceremony being performed in the ſaid Cathedral. Some Swediſh Privateers having been cruiſing of late in the Paſſage between this Place and Lubeck, about 50 Merchant-Ships coming from that Port and from the little Daniſh Iſlands, were obliged